

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 11, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and amend claim 1, as follows:

1. A system for protecting a roadway structure from damage caused by vehicular traffic and vice versa, the roadway structure extending above a roadway pavement, the system comprising:

a resilient, replaceable collar having a body with upper and lower surfaces, an opening provided therethrough and sized to accommodate the outer periphery of the roadway structure, and sloped side walls extending downward from the upper surface of the body towards the lower surface of the body, wherein the upper surface of the body is substantially planar and is in substantially planar alignment with an upper surface of the roadway structure; and

at least one resilient riser provided between the lower surface of the collar body and an upper surface of the roadway pavement, the resilient riser having a thickness so that the collar body and resilient riser together have a height substantially equal to the distance the roadway structure extends above the roadway pavement, wherein the lower surface of the collar body is planar and is in planar alignment with a planar upper surface of the resilient riser.

The amendments to the claims are shown in bracket-underline format on separate pages in Exhibit A, attached herewith.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 10 are currently pending in this application, with claim 1 being amended and claim 11 being cancelled by this Amendment.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)